Statement-II

Table 3. *Food Processing units in Himachal Pradesh*

Sector	No.of units	Capacity (MT)
1. Himachal Pradesh Horticulture Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation (HPMC)	3	26000
2. Departmental Units	9	500
3. Cooperative Sector	7	600
4. Joint/Private Sector	64	53400
TOTAL:	83	80500

Legislation to ban non-iodised salt

*114. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Goverment's proposed ban on non-iodised salt could not be notified since many objections have been received by his Ministry;

(b) the details of objections received from the manufacturers of non-iodised salt in the country;

(c) whether Government would think of bringing legalization for compulsory double fortification of common salt with iodine and iron;

(d) whether his Ministry approached the National Institute of Health, Hyderabad in connection with iodised salt; and

(e) if so, the suggestions made by the institute?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS): (a) to (e) A notification GSR 670(E) has been published on 17.11.2005, amending PFA Rules, 1955, restricting the sale of non-iodized salt for direct human consumption unless the same is iodized. However, non-iodized salt may be sold for iodization, iron fortification, animal use, preservation, manufacturing medicines and industrial use under proper label declaration.

The details of objections received from the manufacturers of non-iodized salt in the country on the notification are enclosed as Statement (*See* below).

The standards for iron fortified common salt have been prescribed under PFA Rules, 1955. A proposal has been received to lay down the standards for double fortified common salt with iodine and iron under PFA Rules, 1955, which is under consideration.

The Government has ascertained the views of National Institute of Nutrition (NIN), Hyderabad, on the proposed amendment.

The NIN, while welcoming the proposal to reimpose ban on the sale of non-iodized salt, has pointed out that:—

> "Previously, the lifting of ban on sale of non-iodized salt was followed by declining rates of production and distribution of iodized salt, throughout the country. This went against India's commitment to eliminate iodine deficiency disorders at the United Nations General Assembly. Moreover, it would have led to re-emergence of the Age old scourge of iodine deficiency disorders, that was effectively brought under control, with over four decades of concerted efforts and commitment by the Government, Scientists, policy makers and salt industry. The reinstatment of ban will make sure that the community in general and women and children in particular will get their daily supply of iodine through adequately iodized salt. This will make it possible to eliminate totally, the preventable mental handicap due to iodine deficiency, in India."

Statement

Objections received from the manufacturers of Non-Iodized salt on Draft Notification GSR 340(E) Dated 27th May, 2005 Regarding Restrictions on Edible Common Salt

Sl. No.	Organization	Comments
1	2	3
1.	Kandla Salt Manufacturer's Association, Gandhidham (Kutch)	We welcome the decision for compulsory iodization of common salt for human consumption. On behalf of the Salt Manufacturers of our region we support for success of the programme.

1	2	3
2.	Saurashtra Small Salt Mfg., Association	Scientists and Doctors have accepted that iodine is essential nutrient in the correct dosage but presence of excess of iodine in body is not good for health. They stress that excess of iodine in the body is excreted through urine, but they are unable to give any satisfactory reply to following questions:— 1. What is the authenticity of test for detection of quantity of iodine in urine. 2. Quantity of urine depends on intake of water. In view of this, what would be the iodine excreted through urine in a person drinking less water. During the period the iodine is in the body, what is its effect on various parts of the bodies? 3. How is iodine excreted in the persons who perform Shivambupan exercise? We advocate compulsory iodized salt in case of hypothyroidism but are silent in case of hyperthyroidism caused by excess of iodine, why? It is suggested that compulsory iodization of salt may not be done. As iodized salt is already available in the market and person in need of iodized salt can consume of iodized salt in consultation with the doctors.
	Salt Manufacturers and Merchants Association, Tuticorin	The easier way to iodise is to iodise drinking water rather than the salt and hence the proposal to amend the rules being unworkable and causing hardship to the public at large and hence they may be dropped and health conditions cannot be super imposed by the State and the same is for individual practice. Drinking water is presently chlorinated and hence iodization of the same will be an additional one and such a huge State machinery need not be ploughed into operation and the same can be done as a State operation. Iodized salt will get decomposed within a short period and the same will happen when exposed to light and free air. The Food Adulteration Act and rules are applicable only if the food is adulterated and common salt namely, Sodium Chloride consumed for ages by our fore fathers cannot be considered as an adulterated commodity. Only if there is a adulteration the Act and Rules are applicable. Iodization is only an additive in common salt and the same is neither a preservative nor it changes the nature of the common salt. An unadulterated commodity like common salt cannot fall under the cateogry of adulterated salt just because there is want of iodization.

1	2	3
		The Government can very well ask the trader and manufacturer to label common salt as different from iodized salt lebelling. The Consumer can choose any one of them as to his need. What to eat is every body's choice so long the same is not adulterated. Addition if different from adulteration.
4.	Tuticorin Small Scale Salt Manufacturers' Association, Tuticorin & Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tutricorin & Thuthukudi Thanpadu Uppu Ettrumathi Viyaparigal Sangam, Tamilnadu.	We insist the Ministry that salt should be kept out of the PFA/ substandard Act. The frequent change in rules should be avoided and if any important change it should be given wide publicity in all regional languages and more period for alteration should be given. The government should not take any legal action on this aspect and avoid penalizing as misbranded. Printing of word "TABLE IODIZED SALT" in the salt small consumer packet should not be implemented. **(Rule 44 H):** We suggest that label declaration on common salt package or container need not be implement in the rule for big package and gunny bags. The label declaration rule can be applied only for 1 kg and 500 gms packet only.
5.	Vedaraniam Small Scale Salt Manufacturers Federation, Vedaraniam, Nagai-Dt.	Salt Manufacture consists of 90% of small scale producers and only 10% Major salt producers in the country. Each and every small scale manufacturers has to purchase an iodization machine for iodization is not practically possible. If the compulsory iodization is introduced, the small scale manufacturer has to sell the salt to the iodized salt producer at a minimum selling price and it will affect their livelihood. The cost of the Potassium Iodate chemical for iodization is very high and the small scale manufacturer are not afford to buy. So, it is stressed that, only if the chemical for iodization and machine is supplied at free of cost, the small scale manufacturer can do iodization to the best interest of the Government. It is only a coating of potassium iodate chemical on common salt crystal which may evaporate due to normal weather conditions and supply of open wagon by the Railway Department and so the iodized salt producer though he is not directly responsible for loss of iodine due to transit, he is punishable under PFA Rules is totally in justice and in guanine. So, our humble request is to with draw the compulsory iodization with immediate effect which will only save the SALT INDUSTRY.

1	2	3
6.	President, The Indian Salt Manufacturers Association, Mumbai	We welcome the decision for compulsory iodization of common salt for human consumption. On behalf of the Salt Manufacturers of our region we support for success of the programme.
7.	President, The Vedaraniam Salt Manufacturers & Merchants Association, Vedaraniam	Clamant appeal for, withdrawal of, ban on common salt. Common salt is harmless to any life. For health reason there can be iodized salt, but not the ban on harmless common salt. It is the bounden duty of any welfare government to safe guard the health of the people. So the government may buy the common salt and iodize it an sell to people, that's going to be very good for all the producer and consumer. Lest, it is going to kill, the small cottage salt industry totally and its dependents in the name of health measures. Please help solve the very serious problem.
8.	Iodized Salt Manufacturers' Traders Association, Gujarat	We welcome the decision for compulsory iodization of common salt for human consumption. On behalf of the Salt Manufacturers of our region we support for success of the programme.
9.	Shree Meenakshi Salt Works (Pvt.) ltd., Tuticorin	The present draft rules if implemented will cripple the salt trade and manufacture and throw out thousands of labourers out of employment and cause great loss to the Salt manufacturers and merchants besides causing inconvenience to the public at large.
10.	Gujarat Refined Salt Manufacturers Association, Gandhidham (Kutch), Ankur Chemfood Products (Guj.), Ltd.	We hereby, request to the Government/Concerned Authorities to kindly see that iodized Salt, should be marketed in packed pouches only with 'ISI' mark as 'Refined Iodized Salt', to upgrade the health of our countrymen. We feel this is more essential than insisting upon 'ISI' mark on mineral water. Action taken in the matter may kindly be intimated for which we we shall be highly grateful. We appreciate the decision taken by your Ministry to put ban on use of non-iodized salt. Iodized Salt and Double Fortified Salt are the need of the day at Global level and our country has also to be tuned with other developed countries and modern living citizens.

1	2	3
11.	Meeth Utpadak Chhote Shilotri Seva Sangh, Rai, Thane	Our association consists of Small Scale Salt Producers/ Manufacturers of Thane District in Maharashtra known as Meeth Utpadak Chhote Shilotri Seva Sangh, Rai. "We strongly object to the proposed insertion of Rule 44.1 in the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules 1955" to impose ban on sale of common Salt. UNICEF have motivated Health Dept. to advise Salt Officials to impose ban on common salt and to support iodization policy through industrial dept. only for the survival of Multinational Companies & Staff under Salt Department. It was surprised to hear an announcement made at the conference of Salt Manufacturers held in Five Star Hotel by the Chief of UNICEF Dr. Eric about application of ban prior to publication of notification, which again indicates that Government machinery have also become victim of UNICEF policy. Constitution gives fundamental rights to every citizen of India to carry out any legal activities/business or profession under the statute for his own & family's better livelihood. He cannot be deprived off by introducing any unconstitutional or unsocial statue, rules or amendments. The ban on common Salt is against the policy of our Dynamic Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh who is keenly interested in eradication of corruption.
12.	The Salt Manufacturers Welfare Association, MARRIPADU Srikakulam Dist. (A.P.)	This association is pleased to welcome GOVT. OF INDIA to make people of INDIA to consume IODIZED SALT compulsorily to get rid of OCITRY AND ITS ALLIED DISEASES CONSEQUENTLY.

Compensation for crop loss

*115. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an estimate has been made about the loss caused to the crops in the Northern States due to severe weather conditions in the region during the winter of 2005-06;